

IN THE CLAIMS

The following is a complete listing of the claims. This listing replaces all earlier versions and listings of the claims.

Claims 1-64 (canceled)

Claim 65 (new): A method of providing active user feedback in a graphic user interface including a soft control, said method comprising steps of:

selecting at least one object;

designating the soft control by allowing a cursor of a pointing device to remain near the soft control for a first time period;

displaying a pop-up window while the soft control is being designated; and

showing in the pop-up window a training preview, comprising a nominal change between a present and a changed display state of the object, the training preview reflecting the change of state of the selected object that can be expected to arise from use of the soft control.

Claim 66 (new): A method according to claim 65, wherein the change of the selected object relates to an attribute of the object.

Claim 67 (new): A method according to claim 65, wherein the pop-up preview window is superimposed on at least one of a working display area and a control display area of the graphic user interface.

Claim 68 (new): A method according to claim 65, wherein the present and changed display states of the object are displayed as symbolic representations of the selected object.

Claim 69 (new): A method according to claim 65, wherein the present and changed display states of the object are displayed as literal representations of the object.

Claim 70 (new): A method according to claim 65, wherein said displaying step is capable of being enabled and inhibited.

Claim 71 (new): A method according to claim 65, wherein the soft control displays a ghost handle according to the operation.

Claim 72 (new): A method according to claim 65, wherein the pop-up preview window can be customized by defining user preferences.

Claim 73 (new): A method according to claim 72, wherein the customization comprises at least one of:

setting a nature of the change; and

setting a range of the change,

Claim 74 (new): A method according to claim 65, further comprising the step of coupling another soft control to the soft control, wherein the change implementable by the soft control is dependent upon a current setting of the other soft control.

Claim 75 (new): A computer readable medium for storing a computer program for providing active user feedback in a graphic user interface, said program comprising:

code for selecting at least one object;

code for designating the soft control by allowing a cursor of a pointing device to remain near the soft control for a first time period;

code for displaying a pop-up window while the soft control is being designated; and

code for showing in the pop-up window a training preview, comprising a nominal change between a present and a changed display state of the object, the training preview reflecting the change of state of the selected object that can be expected to arise from use of the soft control.

Claim 76 (new): A computer executable program for providing active user feedback in a graphic user interface, said program comprising:

code for selecting at least one object;

code for designating the soft control by allowing a cursor of a pointing device to remain near the soft control for a first time period;

code for displaying a pop-up window while the soft control is being designated; and

code for showing in the pop-up window a training preview, comprising a nominal change between a present and a changed display state of the object, the training preview reflecting the change of state of the selected object that can be expected to arise from use of the soft control.

Claim 77 (new): A computer program according to claim 76, wherein the change of the selected object relates to an attribute of the object.

Claim 78 (new): A computer program according to claim 76, wherein the pop-up preview window is superimposed on at least one of a working display area and a control display area of the graphic user interface.

Claim 79 (new): A computer program according to claim 76, wherein the present and changed display states of the object are displayed as symbolic representations of the object.

Claim 80 (new): A computer program according to claim 76, wherein the present and changed display state of the object are displayed as literal representations of the object.

Claim 81 (new): A computer program according to claim 76, wherein said displaying step is capable of being enabled and inhibited.

Claim 82 (new): A computer program according to claim 76, wherein the soft control displays a ghost handle according to the operation.

Claim 83 (new): A computer program according to claim 76, wherein the pop-up preview window can be customized by defining user preferences.

Claim 84 (new): A computer program according to claim 83, wherein the customization comprises at least one of:

setting a nature of the change; and

setting a range of the change.

Claim 85 (new): A computer program according to claim 76, further comprising code for coupling another soft control to the soft control, wherein the change implementable by the soft control is dependent upon a current setting of the other soft control.

Claim 86 (new): An apparatus for providing active user feedback in a graphic user interface including a soft control interface, said apparatus comprising:

means for selecting at least one object;

means for designating the soft control by allowing a cursor of a pointing device to remain near the soft control for a first time period;

means for displaying a pop-up window while the soft control is being designated; and

means for showing in the pop-up window a training preview, comprising a nominal change between a present and a changed display state of the object, the training preview reflecting the change of state of the selected object that can be expected to arise from use of the soft control.

Claim 87 (new): A method of providing active user feedback in a graphic user interface including a soft control, said method comprising steps of:

activating the soft control; and

designating the soft control by allowing a cursor of a pointing device to remain near the soft control for a first time period;

displaying a pop-up window while the soft control is being designated; and

showing in the pop-up window a training preview, representing a nominal change between a present and a changed display state of a selected object, the training preview reflecting the change of state of the selected object that can be expected to arise from use of the soft control.

Claim 88 (new): A method according to claims 87, further comprising the step of coupling another soft control to the soft control, wherein the change associated with

the activation of the soft control is dependent upon a current setting of the other soft control.